GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5437
ANSWERED ON:28.04.2000
TRADE AND INVESTMENT BETWEEN INDIA AND SEYCHELLES
MOHAN RAWALE

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

the steps taken by the Government to boost the trade and investment between India and Seychelles?

Answer

MINISTER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

(SHRI MURASOLI MARAN)

Sir, the following steps have been taken by the Government to boost the trade and investment between India and Seychelles:

i) India has signed bilateral Trade Agreement with Seychelles on 9th September, 1998. This Trade Agreement provides for setting up of a Joint Trade Committee to review the implementation of the provisions of Trade Agreement and to recommend to both the parties the steps to be taken for development and diversification of commercial exchanges.

ii) India and Seychelles have established a Joint Commission on bilateral cooperation.So far, four meetings of Joint Commission have taken place. The last one was held in Feb, 1998 in Seychelles, wherein it was decided to set up a Joint Business Council having private members participation to overlook the question of trade and investment.

iii) From time to time exchange of delegations/trade delegations take place and meetings are organised by FICCI etc. Buyers/Sellers meet are organised. A major private sector investment has been setting up of a telephone communication network in Seychelles by M/s Bharti Telecom of India. They have been able to capture more than 50% of the local mobile phone network and are shortly to launch their fixed line network and expect a good market response. They have been doing well against direct competition from the long established sole telecom service provider, the giant British Company, Cable and Wireless.

iv) On the Government side a number of loans and credit lines have been extended to the Government of Seychelles over the years to facilitate exports from India. Seychelles is currently passing through an acute forex problem. On the request of Government of Seychelles, Government of India had recently extended a new credit line worth US$ 2 million. The credit lines are items specific for our TATA buses. Government of India has also agreed to reschedule payment of past credits as a means of helping out Seychelles through the present crisis.

v) With a view to provide export of Indian goods/services a Credit Agreement has been signed on 24th February, 2000 for extension of a Government of India line of credit worth US$ 2 million to the Government of Seychelles. The same is meant for export of capital goods, consumer durable and/or consultancy services of Indian manufacture/origin.